



Dream Big: Tips For Students

You already know that high school is an exciting time to learn, explore new things and simply have fun.

But do you also know this is a time to dream?

Dreaming big — imagining and planning a bright future for yourself — should be one of your highest priorities during high school.

WHY?

- ➔ If you don't take charge during your high school years and begin planning for the future, others will do it for you. You'll lose your voice and choice in some very important decisions.
- ➔ High school is your prime time to prepare for jobs and college. Even if you don't know for sure what you want to do after high school, make choices now that will expand — not limit — the choices you have later.
 - Take courses in English, math and science every year — not because they are the most important, but because they are the most universally important. Employers in all industries say new hires need strong writing skills, math and computation skills, and the ability to analyze situations and work in a team.
 - Think outside the classroom and get involved in activities that help you explore your talents and develop additional skills, such as leadership, decision-making, or expertise in technology.
 - Remember that 70% of jobs today are considered high-skilled, requiring some training or schooling after high school.
- ➔ It's easier to build your skills step-by-step during high school, when you have time, help from teachers and a roof over your head. If you wait until after high school, you'll likely have less time, it will be more difficult to get the guidance you need, and you'll be juggling a low-wage job to manage your living expenses.

HOW:

Ask your school counselor for details on using the skill and interest survey to get the ball rolling.

Remember your first step is simply to dream big and imagine the possibilities. Your next steps will be to:

- ➔ **PLAN IT** — Use your GPS High School and Career plan to start mapping your journey.
- ➔ **LEARN IT** — Take the best courses to prepare you for the path you choose after high school.
- ➔ **DO IT** — Stick with it. Your GPS Plan will be flexible and can be changed, but you must work from your plan and stay on course.

